

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): As the House is well aware, a number of demands have been made upon the Government indirectly and directly in connection with the war and I do not know whether we can start on new ventures at this time. As you see they are digging up trenches and things like that, and I do not think that this is the proper time to start a new institution. That was the only reason why it was not undertaken.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Does this affect your budget?

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): That is the very reason why we should start Ayurvedic hospitals, so that we can effect savings in the allopathic hospitals.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It will not be saving anything in the Allopathic Department.

Mr. A. B. Salem (*Mattancheri*): Does any of the activities connected with the war affect the Minister's budget?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): No. But I must consider the thing as a whole. When I make an application for additional allotment, should I not be reasonable? Should I not take into consideration the existing state of things?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): If the Minister is convinced of the necessity and importance of the thing why should he not come with a demand in this House for additional allotment?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I explained the reason why I have been hesitating to do it, because the time is very inopportune and the Government have various additional obligations to meet in connection with the war. As the Diwan President has explained, conditions have gone much worse, and I am afraid Government will have to spend large amounts.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar (*Cheruthuruthi*): How can the time be inopportune to minimise the sufferings of the people?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I say the time is inopportune to spend more money.

Demand put and carried.

3. Rs. 500 under "24—Public Health—A. 3—Rural Sanitation"

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 500 under "24—Public Health—A. 3.—Rural Sanitation". There is a threatening outbreak of small-pox in certain parts of the State, in Chittur and in other

places, and we wanted to appoint additional vaccinators. Therefore a very small sum is requested.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Last year also the Hon'ble Minister promised that he will make some attempt by trying Ayurvedic drugs to treat small-pox. May I know whether any attempt has been made?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): No. If the Ayurvedic Hospital is quite welcome to do it they are not prevented from doing it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Hon'ble Minister send an order like that?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I cannot give an order like that. They were told that they were quite welcome to do it.

Demand put and carried

4. Rs. 7,000—Under "17 (1) Central Jail—Diet of Prisoners"

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon (*Secretary to Government*): Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 7,000 under "17 (1)—Central Jail—Diet of Prisoners". The amount has become necessary because of the increase in the Jail population as well as rise in the price of dietary articles. The House will be pleased to sanction this amount.

Demand put and carried.

5. Rs. 9,860 under "26 (1)—Purchase of Stationery Articles"

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon (*Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 9,860 under "26 (1)—Purchase of Stationery Articles". Of this sum of Rs. 9,860, Rs. 6,000 and odd represents the purchases made last year in respect of a consignment which arrived only this year. The allotment for last year lapsed and that amount has to be met this year. So that the real increase in expenditure is only Rs. 3,000 and that is due to the rise in the price of articles.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): Do you pay in advance for the articles to be supplied?

Rao Sahib K. Achyuta Menon (*Secretary to Government*): No.